

Attorney's Docket No. 033339/204662

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Illy et al.
Appl. No.: 09/678,996
Filed: October 4, 2000
For: A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A CHEESE
OR MILK PRODUCT BY MOLDING

Confirmation No.: 4906
Group Art Unit: 1761
Examiner: Leslie A. Wong

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, but before payment of the Issue Fee. The Final Office Action was mailed on November 17, 2003.

Attached is a list of documents on form PTO-1449 together with copies of each identified document. Also enclosed is a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document.

By submitting the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead submitting the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2), the following statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is made:

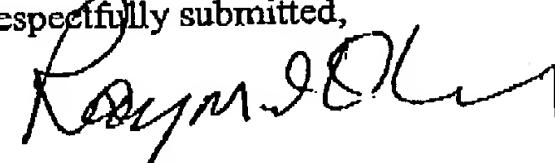
Each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement.

In this regard, Applicant notes that the communication from the foreign patent office was not received by any individual designated by 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

In re: Illy et al.
Appl. No.: 09/678,996
Filed: October 4, 2000
Page 2

A check for the \$180.00 fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

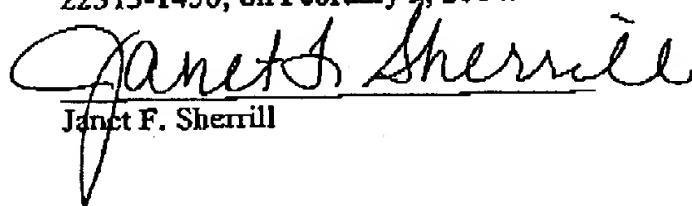


Raymond O. Linker, Jr.
Registration No. 26,419

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
CLT01/4630446v1

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 9, 2004.



Janet F. Sherrill

Substitute for Form 1449/PTO (Revised 04/2003)				Complete if Known
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number 09/678,996
				Filing Date October 4, 2000
				First Named Inventor Illy et al.
				Group Art Unit 1761
				Examiner Name Leslie A. Wong
				Attorney Docket Number 033339/204662
Sheet	1	of	1	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
-----------------------	--------------------	--

Signature _____
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609.
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.